

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00814 131326Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINS, MASS, SO, US
SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA

REFS: A) STATE 093535; B) MOGADISCIO 0771

1. WITH SIAD'S DEPARTURE THIS MORNING, APRIL 13, I THINK WE CAN SAY THAT PHASE ONE OF THE COUP SUPPRESSION IS COMPLETE. THE SOMALI LEADER IS OCCASIONALLY A GAMBLER, BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE HE WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITHOUT BEING CONFIDENT HIS POSITION WOULD BE INTACT UPON HIS RETURN. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE APRIL 9 EVENTS ARE NOW MORE CLEAR. IT WAS AS I SAID EARLIER AN INTERNAL MILITARY AFFAIR, AND THE TOTAL NUMBERS INVOLVED RELATIVELY SMALL. THOSE WHO TOOK THE LEAD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH SUMMARILY. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT SAY THAT RESPONSE APPEALS VERY MUCH TO MY ANGLO-SAXON SENSE OF JUSTICE, IT IS IN KEEPING WITH THE LOCAL POLITICAL TRADITION. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT INDIVIDUAL SOMALIS HAVE REGISTERED DISSATISFACTION WITH SIAD'S CONTINUING RULE. I FIND THOSE REPORTS marginally UNSETTLING, BUT I THINK THE GAP BETWEEN PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND SOTTO VOCE AT THAT, AND OPEN RESISTANCE IS A LARGE ONE.

2. I CANNOT ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS I POSED IN EARLIER MESSAGE ON THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ATTEMPTED COUP FOR
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US SOMALI RELATIONS, BUT I DO CONCLUDE THAT SIAD STILL HAS THE HELM FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS. IF WE PROPOSE TO MOVE RAPIDLY IN THE DIRECTIONS DISCUSSED WITH SIAD DURING THE SPECIAL EMISSARY'S VISIT, I BELIEVE WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DO SO WHEN SIAD RETURNS NEXT WEEK. I THINK THAT MORE THAN A DECENT INTERVAL FOR CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE THEN TRANSPIRED BETWEEN THE DEPARTURE OF THE SPECIAL EMISSARY,

MARCH 23 AND THE REOPENING OF ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WE
SHALL OF COURSE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON INTERNAL STABILITY
IN SOMALIA. IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SIAD
NEXT WEEK, THEN I BELIEVE HE WILL TAKE THAT AS A STRONG
SIGN OF NO CONFIDENCE. FURTHER DELAY WILL NOT ENHANCE
OUR POSITION.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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